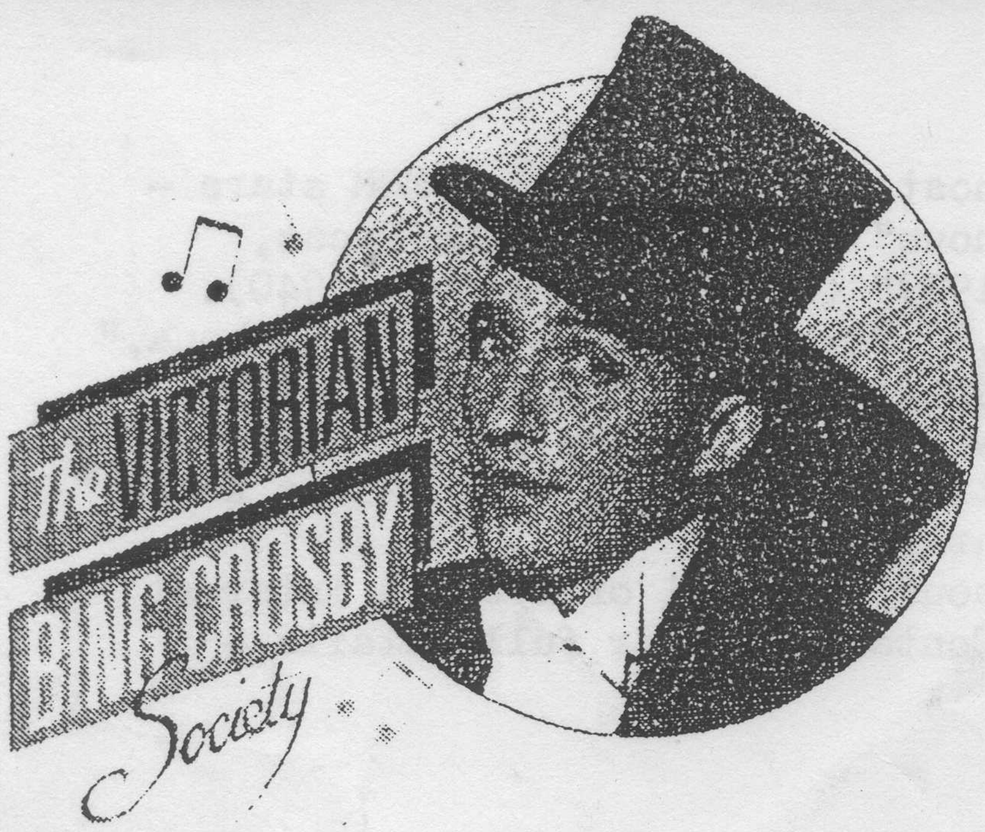
R. J. Neate
22 Fahrenham Street
BLACKBURN 3130
877-1983



FEBRUARY 1994

Start the New Year right! Bring your patronage to the first 1994 V.B.C.S. Film Night on Monday, February 21 (7.30 p.m.start) at the new permanent venue, the Grierson Theatre.

Your support is vital to the continued existence of the Society in these financially-difficult days - and you'll be rewarded by a varied and enjoyable programme, comprising .....

SPECIAL! A "collector's item" cartoon feature lampooning various vintage movie favourites, including H.L.Crosby.

MAIN FEATURE: "ANYTHING GOES" (1936) - Bing/Ida Lupino/Ethel Merman/Charlie Ruggles/Margaret Dumont/Arthur Treacher.
THIS IS A VERY RARE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE ORIGINAL FILM VERSION OF COLE PORTER'S 1934 SMASH-HIT MUSICAL. (When shown on U.S.television in 1962, it was re-titled "Tops is the Limit," to avoid confusion with the later film version, also starring Bing, released in 1956).
A lot of fun revolves around involvement with a group of light-hearted thieves aboard an Atlantic Ocean liner. The Cole Porter score includes the title tune - "You're The Top" - "I Get a Kick out of You" and "There'll Always be a Lady Fair" - while among additional songs are "My Heart and I" (Leo Robin-Fred. Hollander) - "Sailor Beware" (Leo Robin-Richard Whiting) and Hoagy Carmichael's "Moonburn."

SUPPORT: "COLLEGE SWING" (1938)
What happens when Gracie Allen turns the small-town college she's inherited into a watering hole for vaudevillians? Nothing much in the way of plot - but a FEAST of entertainment from top performers of the day including George Burns, Bob Hope, Betty Grable, Martha Raye, Edward Everett Horton, Florence George, Ben Blue, Jackie Coogan, John Payne, Robert Cummings, Skinnay Ennis and Jerry Colonna.

** ** **

PERSONAL NOTES: Nice to see Stan Alexander back among the audience at film nights.
A welcome and "thank you" to Ron Were who is now contributing his wealth of movie knowledge to committee discussions.

On a sadder note, condolences are extended to the families of members Leslie Jones, who died last November, and Max Henson, who passed away on December 17th.

** ** **

Ken Henderson, whose shop at 349 Centre Rd., Bentleigh has been well-known to collectors for many years, advises that he can produce good-quality videos direct from NTSC laserdisc masters of 1928-35 movie musicals. Among titles are two late '20's Joan Crawford vehicles, "Our Darling Daughter" and "Our Modern Maiden" -

"Hollywood Revue of 1929" with Jack Benny as host, and a wealth of MGM stars - Marilyn Miller in "Sally" (1929) - "Show of Shows" (1930) with Nick Lucas, Myrna Loy & Bea Lillie & "Broadway Melody of 1929" (also 1936, 1938 & 1940). Later colour films include "Best Foot Forward," "Dubarry Was a Lady", "Athena," "Summer Stock," "A Date with Judy," "It's A Great Feeling," and four Betty Grable hits - "Pin-Up Girl," "Down Argentine Way," "Springtime in the Rockies," and "Song of the Islands" - and the B/W selections include "Little Nellie Kelly," "Hollywood Canteen," and "Thank Your Lucky Stars."
Also available is a wide variety of miscellaneous material of special interest including clips from several "lost" movies. Contact Ken for full details - 'phone 557 1050.

** ** **

The Foley Center Library at Spokane's Gonzaga University reported in late '93 that the transfer to it of the entire collection of the B.C.Historical Society, doubled its Crosbyana material. As listed in our August newsletter, the BCHS material included over 1000 records (78rpm & LP), hundreds of audio and video tapes, books and photograph albums, together with sheet music, news clippings, scrapbooks and a replica of the statue of Bing that stands outside the Crosby Student Center on the Gonzaga campus. Also of special interest were two standing victrolas, and a table made by Bing's grandfather. The collection is now split between the Crosby Student Center, formerly the Crosby Library - and the Special Collections Department in the Foley Center. Each year over 1500 visitors from all over the world view the displays, and plans are now under way to renovate and upgrade the Crosbyana rooms.
The Associated Press recently featured the collection in an article picked up by newspapers across the U.S., and the Library received an amazing telephone and mail response, leading to the conclusion that interest in Crosby continues at a high level.

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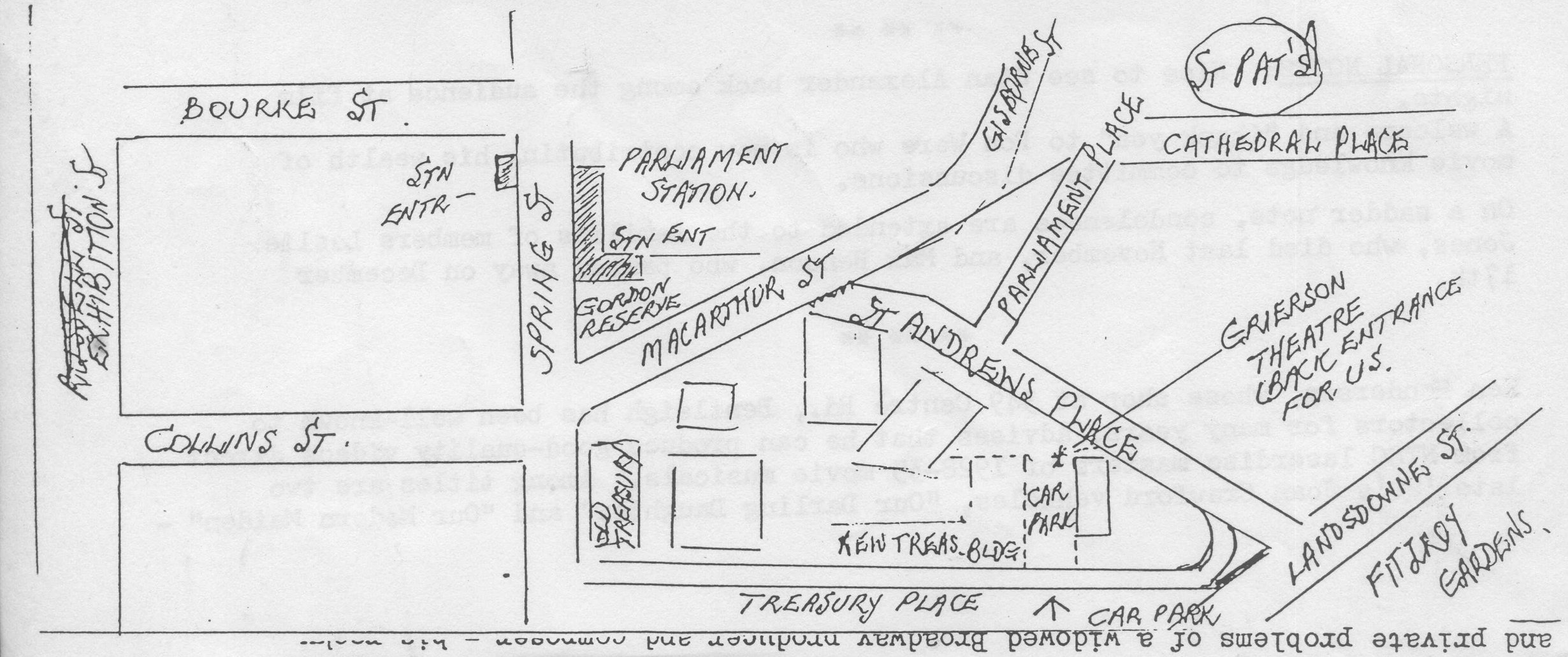
A reminder of GRIERSON THEATRE details.

Part of the State Film complex, it has its front entrance in St.Andrews Place, City. HOWEVER THIS ENTRANCE IS LOCKED AT NIGHT. The much-more convenient back entrance is the one to be used. This entrance, which has a "Grierson Theatre" sign over it, is at the rear of its own carpark, off Treasury Place. Parking here is free after 6.30 p.m. - and just a few steps take you into the theatre. In the unlikely event of this park being full, Treasury Place parking is permitted after 7.30 p.m. - while normal parking conditions apply in Lansdowne Street, and St.Andrews Place.



and private problems of a widowed Broadway producer and composer - his moth-